



Northeast Michigan

Regional Prosperity Initiative

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REGION 3: RPI COLLABORATIVE

September 25, 2019

Alcona Community Schools' Sugar Shack, 51 N. Barlow Road, Lincoln, MI

Minutes Meeting notes

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am.

A quorum was not established.

Presentations

A presentation was provided by Connor Hubbard about the Alcona FFA program and the successes they've had in building support for young people interested in agriculture as a trade. They have 100 members, 5 core classes. They run an apiary and process maple syrup. The honey making is a business of sorts for the students to learn entrepreneurialism. They also have a community garden.

A presentation was also provided by Dan O'Connor about the goals of the schools to create quality graduates. They want students to be thinking, collaborative, ethical, questioning, reflective, etc. They provide a maker space for their students to have ample experiential education experiences. They have a plan to do a 5-C Center (name may change) that is a farm/community center. It might include an incubator, child care, day care, seniors, fitness, food hub (spoke of the Northern Market), and an FFA regional center. Grow Benzie is an example.

RPI in 2020

There was discussion about what would be helpful for the RPI 2020 if there is no funding for it in the state budget. The consensus was that the networking is valuable and should continue. The joint meetings with the Workforce Development Board should continue. Perkins V legislation for career and technical education that is happening in education could be a focus. The state contacts who have attended were also an integral part of this effort and would be great to have this regular contact continue. Site visits for each meeting were also valuable. IF funding is ever available for this effort, the mini-grants were seen as a great way to assist local communities with their needed projects. Broadband efforts is also a great need and anything that could help this along is worthwhile.

